## Message Text

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**ACTION ARA-20** 

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

RSR-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 /075 W

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O R 232356Z AUG 73 FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5288 INFO DOD/DIA USCINCSO

CONFIDENTIAL SANTIAGO 3786

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS, MILI

SUBJ: PRATS' RESIGNATION REPORTED

REF: SANTIAGO 3768

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

- 1. ACCORDING TO EVENING RADIO REPORTS ARMY CINC GEN CARLOS PRATS HAS RESIGNED BOTH AS MINDEFENSE AND AS ARMY CINC. ON LEAVING MONEDA, HE REPORTEDLY TIED ACTION TO ARMY WIVES' DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE HIS HOME DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY. STORIES REPORT PRES ALLENDE HAS ACCEPTED RESIGNATION, WHICH WAS INDECLINABLE.
- 2. ADM RAUL MONTERO, MINFIN, REPORTEDLY CLOSETED HALF HOUR WITH ALLENDE UP TO SHORT TIME AGO, REFUSED MAKE ANY STATEMENTS ON LEAVING MONEDA, THEREBY FIRING SPECULATION HE MAY SUBMIT HIS OWN RESIGNATION.
- 3. WELL-INFORMED PDC SOURCE TELLS US THAT NIGHT OF AUG 21-22 AFTER ARMY WIVES DEMONSTRATED OUTSIDE HOME OF PRATS, NUMBER OF GENERALS WENT TO SEE PRATS FEELING THIS WAS THEIR DUTY IN VIEW FACT THEIR WIVES HAD BEEN THERE. THEY REPORTEDLY RAN INTO PRES CONFIDENTIAL

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ALLENDE THERE BUT CONTINUED CONVERSATION WITH PRATS AFTER ALLENDE'S

DEPARTURE, AND TOLD PRATS IN STRONGEST TERMS THAT IN THEIR VIEW HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RESIGN.

4. SAME SOURCE SAID LATER THAT NIGHT PRATS AND MININTERIOR ORLANDO LETELIER CALLED ON PDC SEN RENAN FUENTEALBA TO APPEAL TO HIM TO USE HIS INFLUENCE TO BLOCK CHAMBER RESOLUTION PASSED LAST NIGHT. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, PRATS AND LETELIER BASED APPEAL ON GRAVE CRISIS FACING CHILE. CONVERSATION APPARENTLY ENDED ABOUT 4:00 A.M. YESTERDAY AFTER WHICH FUENTEALBA INFORMED PDC PRES PATRICIO ALYWIN, WHO SENT MESSAGE BACK THROUGH SAME CHANNEL THAT IF CRISIS SO GRAVE AS REPORTED PRES ALLENDE HAD BUT TO LIFT PHONE AND CALL HIM DIRECT. SOURCE SAID THERE HAS BEEN NO FOLLOW-UP. HE REMARKED THAT SIGNIFICANCE OF CHAMBER RESOLUTION IS THAT FOR MANY HISTORY-MINDED CHILEANS IT HARKS BACK TO EVENTS OF 1891, ALTHOUGH ADMITTEDLY WITHOUT GOING SO FAR AS CHAMBER ACTION OF THAT TIME WHICH SERVED AS INSTITUTIONAL UNDERPINNING FOR MONTT'S INSURRECTION.

**DAVIS** 

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To: STATE

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